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the two side edges of the first web and the third web to form a pocket to hold an article having a sensitive surface on each side of the second nonwoven web.

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20. (once amended) The storage sleeve according to claim 19, wherein the multicomponent thermoplastic filaments are bicomponent filaments comprising a first polymer component and a second polymer component.

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23. (once amended) The storage sleeve according to claim 21, wherein the multicomponent thermoplastic filaments comprise a sheath/core configuration and the sheath comprises the first polymer component and the core comprises the second polymer component.

24. (once amended) The storage sleeve according to claim 13, wherein the nonwoven web comprises monocomponent thermoplastic filaments.

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26. (once amended) The storage sleeve according to claim 13, wherein the electret treatment charges the nonwoven web to about 1 kVDC/cm to about 20 kVDC/cm.

Please add the following new claims:

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29. A storage sleeve capable of holding and protecting an article having a sensitive surface, said storage sleeve comprising a sensitive surface protective material comprising an electret treated spunbond nonwoven web comprising thermoplastic fibers, wherein the nonwoven web is bonded with a pattern having continuous bonded areas defining a plurality of discrete unbonded areas, wherein the material protects the sensitive surface from damage caused by particles, wherein the storage sleeve has an open end to allow the article having the sensitive surface to be inserted into the storage sleeve and the storage sleeve has a shape to accommodate the article having a sensitive surface.

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30. An article having a sensitive surface protected by the storage sleeve of claim 29, wherein the article is located inside the storage sleeve.

31. An article having a sensitive surface protected by the sensitive surface protective material of claim 1, wherein the sensitive surface of the article is in contact with the sensitive surface protective material.

Remarks

Claims 1- 11 and 13-31 are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

First, the Examiner has made a restriction requirement, breaking the claims into two groups. Group I, which includes claims 1-26 and 28, the Examiner states is directed to a sensitive surface protective material and storage sleeve. Group II, which only includes claim 27, the Examiner finds is directed to a method of protecting a sensitive surface by using the protective material of claim 1. The Examiner's basis for making the restriction requirement is that the invention of Group I is related to the invention of Group II as a product and method of using the product. It is further stated that the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process, such as filtering particles from an air stream.

Applicants hereby reaffirm that they orally elected to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-26 and 28, with **traverse**, in a telephone conversation with the Examiner on October 29, 2002. The restriction requirement is traversed for the following reasons.

Applicants point out that claim 1 is directed a sensitive surface protective material, which protects a sensitive surface of an article having a sensitive surface from damage caused by particles, such as dust, dirt and the like. Claim 27 merely claims the method in which the sensitive surface protective material is used to protect the article with a sensitive surface, requiring that the article with the sensitive surface be brought into contact with the sensitive surface protective material. It is therefore submitted that the inventions of Group I and Group II are so closely related that a full and fair consideration of the Group I would necessarily include consideration of the method of Group II.